

REMARKS

Claims 26, 28-32 and 45-63 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 26, 31, 32 and 50 are amended and claims 1-25, 27, 33-44 and 64-74 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added by the amendments. Support for the amendments can be found in at least Applicants' original claims for example. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 45-63 contain allowable subject matter. In addition, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 27 also contains allowable subject matter during the October 25, 2010 telephone interview.

II. Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to claims 24 and 25 as allegedly containing informalities. By this Amendment, claims 24 and 25 are canceled, and thus, the objection is rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

III. 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 4-25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite, and claims 17 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly failing to define the invention. By this Amendment, claims 4-25 are canceled, and thus, the rejections are rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

IV. 35 U.S.C. §101 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-25, 33-44 and 64-74 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicants

cancel claims 1-25, 33-44 and 64-74, and thus, the rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

V. Prior Art Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by WO 98/22023 to Cotton; claims 1-11, 14-17 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,289,236 to Koenig et al. (hereinafter "Koenig"); claims 4, 6-9, 11, 14-17 and 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cotton in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,640,957 to Kaminski et al. (hereinafter "Kaminski"); and claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Koenig. The rejections are rendered moot by the amendments.

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-25, 27, 33-44 and 64-74, and thus, the rejections are rendered moot with regard to these claims. In addition, Applicants amend claim 26 by incorporating the subject matter of allowable claim 27. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric D. Morehouse
Registration No. 38,565

Bjorn G. Anderson
Registration No. 63,398

EDM:BGA/ccs

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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